APPENDIX A

- 1 1. (Amended) Apparatus comprising:
- 2 a first supply source of sterile air;
- 3 a supply source of sterilant;
- 4 an atomizing system producing an atomized sterilant
- 5 from the mixing of the sterile air from the first supply source
- of sterile air with the sterilant;
- 7 a second supply source of a hot sterile air for
- 8 providing the hot sterile air to the atomized sterilant;
- 9 a probe <u>extending into an interior of a container</u> for
- 10 applying the atomized sterilant into the [an] interior of the [a]
- 11 container; and
- a third supply source of a hot sterile drying air for
- 13 activating and drying the sterilant in the interior of the
- 14 container.
- 1 11. (Amended) A method comprising:
- providing a first supply of sterile air;
- 3 providing a supply of sterilant;
- 4 producing an atomized sterilant by mixing the first
- 5 supply of sterile air with the sterilant;
- 6 providing a second supply of hot sterile air to the
- 7 atomized sterilant;

- 8 providing a probe <u>extending into an interior of a</u>
- 9 <u>container</u> for applying the atomized sterilant into <u>the</u> [an]
- 10 interior of the [a] container; and
- supplying a third supply of hot sterile drying air for
- 12 activating and drying the sterilant in the interior of the
- 13 container.
 - 1 21. (Amended) Apparatus comprising:
 - means for supplying a first source of sterile air;
 - 3 means for supplying a source of sterilant;
 - 4 means for providing an atomizing system for producing
 - 5 an atomized sterilant from the mixing of sterile air from the
 - 6 first source of sterile air with the sterilant;
- 7 means for supplying a second source of hot sterile air
- 8 to the atomized sterilant;
- 9 means for applying the atomized sterilant to an
- 10 interior of a container by extending a probe into the interior of
- 11 the container; and
- means for supplying a third source of hot sterile
- drying air into the interior of the container for activating and
- 14 drying the sterilant.